

“When you know the truth about what happens to you after you die, and you believe it, and you are satisfied with all that God will be for you in the ages to come, that truth makes you free indeed. Free from the short, shallow, and suicidal pleasures of sin, and free of the sacrifices of mission and ministry that cause people to give glory to our Father in heaven.” -John Piper

QUESTION #1 WHAT IS HELL?

Hell (Greek word-*gehenna*) is the New Testament word used for the place of eternal punishment. The word “hell” (Gehenna) occurs _____ times in the Bible. In all but James 3:6, the word comes from the mouth of Jesus. As the one who knew the most about it and its horrors, it should not surprise us that He said the most about it.

“If Jesus, the Lord of Love and Author of Grace spoke about hell more often, and in a more vivid, blood-curdling manner than anyone else, it must be a crucial truth.” -Tim Keller

“All the language that strikes terror into our hearts-weeping and gnashing of teeth, outer darkness, the worm, the fire, Gehenna, the great gulf fixed—is all directly taken from our Lord’s teaching. It is from Jesus Christ that we learn the doctrine of eternal punishment.” -J.I. Packer

- 1. Hell is a place of fiery a_____...a place of unquenchable fire** (Mt 3:12; Mk 9:43; Matthew 13: 40-42; Matthew 13: 49-50a; Matthew 18: 8-9; Matthew 25 :41; Jude 6-7; Jude 22-23; Revelation 20:15)
- 2. Hell is a place of conscious t_____.** (Revelation 20: 9-10; Luke 16: 22-28)
- 3. Hell is a place of outer d_____.**(Matthew 8: 11-12; Matthew 22:13; Matthew 25: 30; 2 Peter 2:17)
- 4. Hell is a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth.** (Matt. 8: 12b, Matt. 13: 42b, Matt. 13: 50; Matt. 22:13; Matt 25. 30)
- 5. Hell is a place of continual r_____.**
“The sinner in hell does not become morally neutral upon his sentence to hell. We must not imagine the damned sinner displaying gospel repentance and longing for the presence of Christ. The damned indeed are longing for an escape from punishment, but they are not “new creations.” They do not, in hell, love the Lord their God with heart, mind, soul, and strength. Instead, they are now handed over to the full display of their natures apart from grace, natures that are satanic(Jn 8:44). Thus, the condemnation continues forever and ever and ever, with no end in view either for the sin or the punishment thereof.” -Russell Moore
- 6. Hell is a place of divine d_____.** (2 Peter 3:7; 2 Thessalonians 1:9)

7. **Hell is a place of complete s_____ from the presence of God.** (2 Thessalonians 1:9; Matthew 7: 21-23)

“None but one who really knows God can begin to estimate what it will mean to be eternally banished from the Lord. Forever separated from the Fount of all goodness! Never to enjoy the light of God’s countenance! Never to bask in the sunshine of His presence. This, this is the most awful of all.” A.W. Pink

8. **Hell is a place of ultimate j_____ and eternal punishment.**

“Thus, it is in Hell; they would die, but they cannot. The wicked shall be always dying but never dead; the smoke of the furnace ascends forever and ever. Oh! Who can endure thus to be ever upon the rack This word “ever” breaks the heart.” Thomas Watson

QUESTION #2 IS HELL REALLY FOREVER? The answer is _____ though there are several unbiblical positions offered by others. Three of them stand out.

- a. **U_____**: This view holds that God will finally redeem all rational things. To accomplish this, He will, if necessary, even override the free will of man and force him to be saved. This view was advocated by the Church Father Origen and is popular with many liberal and sentimental people.
- b. **Annihilationism**: The word is from the Latin *nihil* meaning “*nothing*,” and it expresses the position of those who hold that some, if not all, human souls will cease to exist after death. This view is being popularized by Kirk Cameron right now in our day. This point of view may take various forms
- 1) That all human beings will inevitably cease to exist altogether at death (materialist)
 - 2) That man, being created contingently immortal, fulfills his destiny in salvation, while the spiritually lost (unbelievers) are sent into nonexistence through a direct act of God.
- c. **Conditional Immortality**: This view is similar to that of annihilationism but is to be distinguished from it. Here human beings are viewed as being naturally mortal. God in salvation imparts the gift of eternal life to the redeemed. Eternal life is thus equally qualitative and quantitative. The rest of humanity is allowed to decay naturally and waste away into nothingness.
- In annihilationism, God actively destroys the lost.
 - In conditional immortality, God passively allows the destruction of the lost.

QUESTION #3 WHAT ARE THE BIBLICAL ARGUMENTS FOR THE ETERNAL NATURE OF HELL?

- A. **There are clear s_____ in Scripture for the eternal duration of hell.**
- Matt 25:42** > Then he will say to those on his left, “Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”
- John 3:36**>Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not have the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:9** >They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.

Jude 7> Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire...

Revelation 14: 10,11>He also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of His anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of his holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.

Mark 9: 43-48 > And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, where the worm does not die and the fire is quenched.

B. The doctrine of hell is _____ and theologically _____.

1. Hell sufficiently recognizes that sin against a perfect and eternal God justifies eternal consequences.
2. Hell recognizes the confirmed state of unrepentance and rebellion against God by the unbelieving. The unbelieving do not want God—even in hell.
3. Hell adequately accounts for the doctrine of resurrection, even of the wicked (Jn 5: 28-29; rev 20:6)
4. The nature of hell accounts for the fact that there are degrees of punishment (Mt 11: 21-24)

C. Understanding the doctrine of hell results from the natural _____ of the Bible.

1. Annihilationism advocates a more allegorical than natural (literal) interpretation of the Scriptures. Universalism rejects outright the clear statements of Scripture.
2. Conditional immortality gives the word "death" (meaning separation/the absence of spiritual life) an incorrect definition (extinction/cessation).

Hell is the "the kingdom of darkness where death never ends." -Danny Akin